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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Iowa is 20<sup>th</sup> State to Offer Building Operator Certification**

The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) and the Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC) are pleased to announce the addition of Iowa to the national Building Operator Certification (BOC) program. With this approval, MEEA and NEEC welcome Iowa as the 20<sup>th</sup> state to join the BOC provider network.

BOC is a competency-based training and certification for building operators, offering improved job skills and more comfortable and energy efficient facilities. The certification also provides a credential for professional development while offering employers a way to identify skilled operators. Graduates of BOC training typically achieve utility bill savings of \$12,000 in the first year and document a decrease in the number of tenant complaints.

The Iowa BOC program will be administered by the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) on behalf of the Iowa Energy Center in partnership with Alliant Energy-Interstate Power and Light Co., Aquila, and MidAmerican Energy Company. MEEA is a collaborative network advancing energy efficiency in the Midwest to support sustainable economic development and environmental preservation and offers BOC training in five Midwest states.

Floyd Barwig, Director of the Iowa Energy Center says, "BOC training is a great opportunity to help businesses stay competitive by shaving energy costs. We're excited about the opportunity to work with MEEA and NEEC to bring the program to Iowa."

BOC Level I certification is earned by completing 56 hours of classroom training and written exams, in addition to hands-on projects conducted at the operator's facility. Topics include HVAC systems and controls, energy conservation techniques, electrical systems, and indoor air quality.

According to Nicole Healey, Product Manager at Alliant Energy, “BOC offers great value to private sector companies and public institutions interested in controlling energy costs to stay competitive and to be environmentally responsible. We are achieving major utility bill savings in commercial facilities, and well-trained, front-line staff are key to that success.”

Over 5,000 operators hold BOC certifications nationally. The certificate is registered with the Building Owners and Managers Institute (BOMI), the Association for Facilities Engineering (AFE) and the International Facilities Management Association (IFMA) for continuing education maintenance points.

A Free BOC informational Web Cast is scheduled on Thursday, March 1, 2007. To register, visit [www.boccentral.org](http://www.boccentral.org). BOC course series will be held in Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Council Bluffs and Des Moines beginning in February.

For more information, go to [www.boccentral.org](http://www.boccentral.org), or visit the national website, [www.theboc.info](http://www.theboc.info)

#### ABOUT NEEC

The Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC) is a business association of the energy efficiency industry. NEEC’s mission is to promote policies and programs that enhance market opportunities for energy efficiency. Building Operator Certification is one such program and continues to gain national recognition.

#### ABOUT IOWA ENERGY CENTER

The Iowa Energy Center supports projects that help Iowans understand how they can make their homes more comfortable and affordable to own. It is investing in initiatives that help Iowa industries and businesses run efficiently so they can be more productive and profitable. The Energy Center also helps Iowa communities strengthen their local economies and make their environments healthier.

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